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Army Guns Cool Mexico; Olympics on

By STRATFORD C. JONES

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Students burned trolley cars near an Olympic field and armored cars kept their guns trained on apartment buildings where snipers had holed up, but most of the Mexican capital was quiet last night.

Despite the eruption of the student rebellion into a shooting battle with army troops Wednesday night, the Olympic games still were set to open a week from Saturday.

"As guests of Mexico, we have full confidence that the Mexican people . . . will join the participants and spectators in celebrating the games, a veritable oasis in a troubled world," said Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic Committee, after an emergency meeting of the committee.

A COUNT of casualties at hospitals and police stations showed at least 27 persons killed in Wednesday night's fighting and some Mexico City newspapers reported death tolls as high as 40. There was no official estimate of the number wounded, but it appeared to be in the hundreds. Various sources reported between 1,000 and 1,500 arrested.

The government has reported 20 deaths. Gen. Marcelino Garcia Barragan, secretary of defense, said one of the dead was a soldier.

NO INJURIES were reported in yesterday's incidents. Students burned three streetcars in front of the Aztec Stadium where Olympic soccer games will be played, and fled before police made any arrests. Hit-and-run gunmen fired apparently random sprays of bullets in various sections of the city.

A noise bomb, which did no damage, exploded on the eastern side of the city, so far untouched by the sporadic violence that has occurred since the students went on strike two months ago, charging government repression and police brutality.

Beside armored cars at the Plaza of Three Cultures, there were other signs of continued unease.

THE MEXICAN OLYMPIC organizing committee placed a police guard inside its office. The Olympic teams of several nations ordered curfews for their athletes. Soldiers stood guard at some Olympic sites. And a costly space exploration exhibit was moved from the University of Mexico to an Olympic committee building.

Army troops occupied the university campus, across the street from the Olympic Stadium, from Sept. 18 until Monday because of a reported student plot to disrupt the Olympics.

When the troops pulled out, striking sutdents returned, vowing to hold out for their demands for abolition of the riot police corps, firing of three top police officials, repeal of some antisubversion laws and a guarantee of university autonomy.

SEVERAL STUDENTS told newsmen yesterday that at least six leaders of the strike committee were killed Wednesday night. They said several others were arrested and the rest were in hiding.

Although many students, perhaps a large majority, now appear ready to abandon the strike, a hard core of strikers still is pressing for answers to the demands.

In Monterrey, students took over administration buildings and four departments at the University of Monterrey yesterday, charging that two students they had sent to support the strikers in Mexico City had disappeared.

Students marched in columns of fours through Chihuahua City, shouted and tied up traffic before the inauguration last night of Oscar Flores as governor of Chihuahua State.